

Groton-Dunstable Regional School District
SCHOOL COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING w/Public Forum & Executive Session
November 15, 2023 - 7:00PM
Groton-Dunstable Regional Middle School SOUTH - PAC
344 Main Street, Groton, MA

Posted: 11.9.23 / 1:00 PM - REVISED 11.9.23 / 2:45 PM

Watch LIVE - <https://reflect-thegrotonchannel.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/watch/1?channel=1>

Link to documents - <https://www.gdrsd.org/browse/254634>

School Committee w/ Public Forum & Executive Session

Anticipated¹ Agenda² ``

I. Call to Order

II. 7:00 - 8:00 PM PUBLIC FORUM/Budget Questions

III. Reports

A. Superintendent

1. High School Scheduling Options - Discussion
2. Behavioral Task Force Update - Discussion
3. Strategic Plan DRAFT, 1st Read - Discussion/Vote

B. Director of Finance & Operations

1. Whitson's Update on Cafeteria Services

C. Chair

1. Naming of the New Elementary School - Discussion/Vote
2. Set Teams for Unit D Negotiations - Discussion/Vote
3. Superintendent Search, Screening Committee Survey - Update
4. Liaison Reports
 - a) Policy
 - (1) BEDB-Agenda Format - 1st Read, Discussion/Vote
 - (2) IJOA-Field Trips - 2nd Read, Discussion/Vote

IV. New Business

V. Adjourn - *Motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 30A, Sec. 21 a-3 (Unit A) and not to return to regular session.*

¹ The listing of topics that the Chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting is not intended as a guarantee of the topics that will be discussed. Not all topics listed may, in fact be discussed and other topics not listed may be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

² Votes may be taken at any time during the meeting.

Note: action items will be handled as business is presented.

Please note: Meeting content, start times and duration are subject to change.

PUBLIC COMMENT AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All regular and special meetings of the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee shall be open to the public. Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed by the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee desires individuals to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of our local public schools. In addition, the Committee would like the opportunity to hear public comment.

Public comment is not a discussion, debate, or dialogue between individuals and the School Committee. It is an individual's opportunity to express an opinion on issues within the School Committee's authority.

To ensure the ability of the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee to conduct the District's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted:

1. At the start of each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, individuals will sign in for an opportunity to speak during public comment. Failure to sign up will not preclude a member from speaking, provided there is time left in the public comment segment. The public comment segment shall not exceed 15 minutes, which can be utilized all at once, or divided into shorter comment/question segments throughout the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair. All speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner.
2. Speakers will be allowed up to three (3) minutes to present their material and must begin their comments by stating their name and city/town. The presiding Chair may permit extension of this time limit, in extenuating circumstances.
3. Topics for discussion should be limited to those items within the School Committee's scope of authority. The authority of the School Committee primarily concerns the review and approval of the budget of the district's public schools, the performance of the Superintendent, and the educational goals and policies of the district's public schools. Comments and complaints regarding school personnel (apart from the Superintendent) or students are generally prohibited unless those comments and complaints concern matters within the scope of School Committee authority.
4. The Chair of the meeting, after a warning, reserves the right to terminate speech which is not constitutionally protected because it constitutes true threats that are likely to provoke a violent reaction and cause a breach of the peace, or incitement to imminent lawless conduct.
5. Written comments longer than three (3) minutes may be presented to the presiding Chair before or after the meeting. All remarks will be addressed through the Chair of the meeting. Comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee.
6. Recognizing that the Committee shall not engage in deliberations on items not duly posted on the agenda, the response of the Committee shall be limited to the following: the Chair, on behalf of the School Committee, shall acknowledge and thank the member of the public for sharing their concerns and refer them to the proper subcommittee or person within the District to seek resolution to their concerns.
7. Sign up instructions will be provided for those who wish to participate in Public Comment.
8. Public comment shall take place at the beginning or end of the meeting, at the chair's discretion.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [30A: 18-25](#)

Chapter 30A: Section 20f Regulation of participation by public in open meetings

Section 20f. No person shall address a meeting of a public body without permission of the chair, and all persons shall, at the request of the chair, be silent. No person shall disrupt the proceedings of a meeting of a public body. If, after clear warning from the chair, a person continues to disrupt the proceedings, the chair may order the person to withdraw from the meeting and if the person does not withdraw, the chair may authorize a constable or other officer to remove the person from the meeting.